Electronic Version
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Claims

[c1] We claim:

1. A method for obtaining data in a computer system, comprising:
receiving a first plurality of data sample values based on a first signal generated by a first sensor from a first predetermined time to a second predetermined time;
receiving a second plurality of data sample values based on a second signal generated by a second sensor from a third predetermined time to a fourth predetermined time; and,
storing both the first plurality of data sample values and the second plurality of data sample values in a first memory when a time difference between the first predetermined time and the third predetermined time is less than a predetermined time threshold value.

[c2] 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying both the first plurality of data sample values and the second plurality of data sample values on a computer monitor associated with a first computer when the time difference between the first predetermined time and the third predetermined time is less than the predetermined

time threshold value.

[c3] 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising inputting first and second identifier values associated with the first and second sensors, respectively, using a first computer.

[c4] 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising inputting the predetermined time threshold value using a first computer.

[c5] 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
sending a data request message from a first computer to a second computer to retrieve the first plurality of data sample values previously stored in the second computer; and,
in response to the data request message, sending the first plurality of data sample values from the second computer to the first computer.

[c6] 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying the first and second plurality of data sample values in first and second graphical plots, respectively, on a computer monitor.

[c7] 7. The method of claim 6 further comprising:
assigning a first time stamp value to the first plurality of data sample values, the first time stamp value corresponding to the first predetermined time; and,

assigning a second time stamp value to the second plurality of data sample values, the second time stamp value corresponding to the second predetermined time.

[c8] 8. The method of claim 7 wherein displaying the first and second plurality of data sample values comprises:
determining the time difference value by subtracting the first time stamp value from the second time stamp value;
generating a first graphical plot of the first plurality of data sample values on the computer monitor if the time difference value is less than the predetermined time threshold value; and,
generating a second graphical plot of the second plurality of data sample values on the computer monitor if the time difference value is less than the predetermined time threshold value.

[c9] 9. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
receiving a third plurality of data sample values based on a first signal generated by the first sensor from a fifth predetermined time to a sixth predetermined time;
receiving a fourth plurality of data sample values based on a second signal generated by the second sensor from a seventh predetermined time to an eighth predetermined time; and,
storing both the third plurality of data sample values and the fourth plurality of data sample values in the first

memory when a time difference between the fifth predetermined time and the sixth predetermined time is less than a predetermined time threshold value.

[c10] 10. A system for obtaining data in a computer system, comprising:
first and second computers operably communicating with one another, the first computer configured to retrieve a first plurality of data sample values stored in the second computer, the first plurality of data sample values based on a first signal generated by a first sensor from a first predetermined time to a second predetermined time, the first computer further configured to retrieve a second plurality of data sample values stored in the second computer, the second plurality of data sample values based on a second signal generated by a second sensor from a third predetermined time to a fourth predetermined time, the first computer further configured to store both the first plurality of data sample values and the second plurality of data sample values in a first memory when a time difference between the first predetermined time and the third predetermined time is less than a predetermined time threshold value.

[c11] 11. The system of claim 10 wherein the first computer is further configured to query a user of the first computer to input first and second identifier values associated with

the first and second sensors, respectively.

[c12] 12. The system of claim 10 wherein the first computer is further configured to query a user of the first computer to input the predetermined time threshold value.

[c13] 13. A system of claim 10 wherein the first computer is further configured to send a data request message to the second computer to retrieve the first plurality of data sample values previously stored in the second computer; and, the second computer being further configured to send the first plurality of data sample values to the first computer in response to the data request message.

[c14] 14. The system of claim 10 wherein the second computer is configured to assign a first time stamp value to the first plurality of data sample values, the first time stamp value corresponding to the first predetermined time, the second computer further configured to assign a second time stamp value to the second plurality of data sample values, the second time stamp value corresponding to the second predetermined time.

[c15] 15. The system of claim 14 wherein the first computer is further configured to determine the time difference value by subtracting the first time stamp value from the second time stamp value, the first computer further config-

ured to generating a first graphical plot of the first plurality of data sample values on the computer monitor if the time difference value is less than the predetermined time threshold value, the first computer further configured to generate a second graphical plot of the second plurality of data sample values on the computer monitor if the time difference value is less than the predetermined time threshold value.

[c16] 16. The system of claim 10 wherein the first computer is further configured to retrieve a third plurality of data sample values stored in the second computer, the third plurality of data sample values based on a third signal generated by a first sensor from a fifth predetermined time to a sixth predetermined time, the first computer further configured to retrieve a fourth plurality of data sample values stored in the second computer, the fourth plurality of data sample values based on a fourth signal generated by a second sensor from a seventh predetermined time to an eighth predetermined time, the first computer further configured to display both the third plurality of data sample values and the fourth plurality of data sample values on the computer monitor associated with the first computer when a time difference between the fifth predetermined time and the sixth predetermined time is less than a predetermined threshold value.

[c17] 17. A system for obtaining data, comprising:
a first computer means for storing a first plurality of data sample values based on a first signal generated by a first sensor from a first predetermined time to a second predetermined time and for storing a second plurality of data sample values based on a second signal generated by a second sensor from a third predetermined time to a fourth predetermined time; and,
a second computer means operably communicating with the first computer means for storing both the first plurality of data sample values and the second plurality of data sample values in a first memory when a time difference between the first predetermined time and the third predetermined time is less than a predetermined time threshold value.

[c18] 18. The system of claim 17 further comprising displaying both the first plurality of data sample values and the second plurality of data sample values on a computer monitor associated with the second computer when the time difference between the first predetermined time and the third predetermined time is less than the predetermined time threshold value.

[c19] 19. An article of manufacture, comprising:
a computer storage medium having a computer program

encoded therein for obtaining data in a computer system, the computer storage medium including:

code for receiving a first plurality of data sample values based on a first signal generated by a first sensor from a first predetermined time to a second predetermined time;

code for receiving a second plurality of data sample values based on a second signal generated by a second sensor from a third predetermined time to a fourth predetermined time; and,

code for storing both the first plurality of data sample values and the second plurality of data sample values in a first memory when a time difference between the first predetermined time and the third predetermined time is less than a predetermined time threshold value.

[c20] 20. The article of manufacture of claim 19 wherein the computer storage medium further comprises code for displaying both the first plurality of data sample values and the second plurality of data sample values on a computer monitor when the time difference between the first predetermined time and the third predetermined time is less than the predetermined time threshold value.